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ABSTRACT

Compiled in this pamphlet are 19 essays written by high school students in response to a statewide contest in Missouri which had the theme "Why the Study of (name of FL) Is Important to Me." The essays represent students' attitudes toward Latin, German, French, and Spanish. (RL)

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# Language

## MISSOURI YOUTH SPEAK OUT

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FL004 027

RESULTS OF THE 1972 STATEWIDE ESSAY CONTEST SPONSORED AND CONDUCTED BY THE

Foreign Language Association of Missouri

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STATE OF MISSOURI

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ARTHUR L. MALLORY
*Commissioner of Education*

RICHARD L. KING
*Coordinator of Curriculum*

Jefferson City
*February, 1973*

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FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

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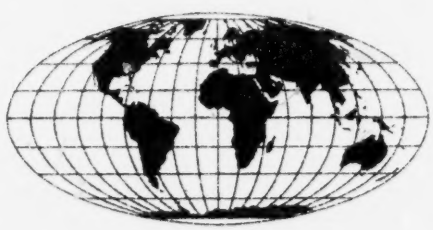


ARTHUR L. MALLORY

COMMISSIONER

**STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
DIVISION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS
JEFFERSON BUILDING
P. O. BOX 480
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101

February 13, 1973

# INTRODUCTION

What do students think of their foreign language classes? Do they fill a need? For what reasons do students find themselves pursuing the study of a second language? The Foreign Language Association of Missouri decided to find some responses to these questions, directly from the source - the students. Last September, the officers of FLAM initiated a statewide essay contest with the theme *"Why the Study of (name of FL) is Important to Me."* Nine districts were set up with a chairman and panel of judges for each. Both teachers and students served on the panels. The contest was announced through the state newsletter and each district submitted its top three essays to the FLAM Executive Board for final judging.

In his letter of May 9, 1972, to Dr. Herbert Lederer, President of the National Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations, President Richard Nixon stated in part:

> *"At the conclusion of my recent visit to China our two countries agreed to facilitate trade and contact between our citizens. This is an encouraging step forward in our search for peace, and it is symbolic of the exciting future which lies ahead for Americans, and especially for our young people. The youth of today will live in an age of unparalleled international exchange and cooperation, and those who have studied a foreign language will be better prepared to help this nation work with others to build a better future for mankind."*

Missouri youth apparently agreed with the President. It is noteworthy that the majority, in one way or another, stated that "communication with natives of the language" and "understanding the culture of our fellow man" were their primary motives and goals for studying a second language. We were deeply impressed by the genuine sincerity and insight of the students.

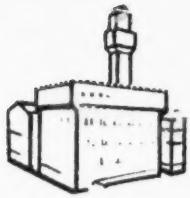
Everyone was cautioned to allow the students to "tell it their own way." Teachers were not to change statements made by their students if it would change the original idea. Choosing twenty-seven from 239 entires was difficult enough, but selecting that certain one from the twenty-seven, even more so. Finally, the decision was made and first place went to Miss Karen L. Puett, a Latin III student of Mrs. Hildegarde Gee, Central High School, St. Joseph. Karen was a guest of the Association at its annual luncheon meeting held at Avila College, Kansas City, in November. She was awarded a hand-lettered certificate of appreciation and two books on Roman civilization by the President of FLAM, Miss Mary Jackson.

(continued on back)

The results of the essay contest were so rewarding for all concerned that the officers of FLAM are seriously considering its use again for the coming school year. In this publication we have printed the top 19 essays of 1972, so that anyone interested in the students' point of view will have access to *Missouri Youth Speak Out*. No attempt has been made to place the essays of this publication in order of relative merit, with the single exception of Karen's essay which does appear first.

When one really hesitates to ponder what it's all about, we recall the apt words of Lorraine Strasheim, as she advised the 1971 Central States Conference: "*....let's be certain that we are never describing just what the teacher does: let's be very sure that we judge creativity in the classroom by what the teacher makes it possible for the student to do.*"

William O. Clapper
Foreign Language Consultant
Curriculum



# LATIN

***STATE WINNER***

*WHY THE STUDY OF LATIN IS IMPORTANT TO ME*

Karen L. Puett
Central High School
St. Joseph

When someone hears that I am studying Latin, he sometimes says, "That's a dead language. What are you taking that for?" or "You sure were dumb to take that. You can't even speak it." Maybe what they are saying is true, but personally I don't believe so. I decided to take this course because I knew that many terms in the medical field are Latin. I wanted at least some knowledge of this language since I am planning to go into this profession. As my studies proceeded, I discovered that Latin was more than just a language course. It was also a history course and an aid to my English. In addition to learning about Roman life and important people and literature and arts, I have learned much about the Greek. Instead of having to look up a word from my reading in the dictionary, I can usually infer the meaning from its Latin or Greek roots in addition to context. Through my understanding of Latin grammar, I have improved my English grammar. Studying Latin has improved and increased my vocabulary because of the many derivates which come from Latin. Because Latin is the basis for many other languages such as Spanish, French, Italian, and Rumanian, I will be able to pursue one of these languages more easily by knowing many of the roots. Yes, many persons may think that Latin is dead, but the study of Latin will always live and be important because of its cultural and inherited value as well as for the aid it provides in other studies.

# *WHY LATIN IS IMPORTANT TO ME*

Janice Owens
Parkview High School
Springfield

"Ugh! You're taking Latin? How can you? What use is Latin?" This is the attitude too often expressed by high school students toward one of the most practical foreign languages -- Latin. The time is no longer when a knowledge of Latin was necessary for a well-rounded education. Unfortunately, many students have accepted for a fact that "Latin is dead." No language is dead until people have ceased to incorporate it into their society. Many people think that only a spoken language which is actively used is worth while. Latin is actively employed, though it is not spoken. It forms the very basis for much of the English language, and provides the framework for all of the Romance languages. Authors frequently borrow Latin phrases and mottos. There is also the satisfaction of reading a classic in the original thoughts of the master.

I respect Latin. It has given me a broader command of my own language and will provide a useful foundation for the foreign languages I plan to study in college. None of my closer friends are taking Latin. They have sometimes stated that Latin is for human computers, aspiring nuclear physicists, or (heaven forbid) hopeful Latin teachers.

Latin has also enriched my day-to-day vocabulary. I do not have to dive for my dictionary as often at the sight of a gargantuan word. If I just take the word apart, the basic meaning usually becomes clear. Sometimes I even surprise myself because when I first began Latin I thought it was one jumbled mistake. No one could learn all those words, conjugations, and declensions. Impossible!

Of course learning Latin is not easy -- no language is "easy." But every language has a purpose. Every language is refined and molded to the needs of its people. At one time a great republic used Latin. Literary works were created that are read and admired today. Latin allows us to touch the lives of men who lived ages ago, but who have remained great. Yes, it takes time, effort, and dedication to become proficient in any foreign language, but the rewards are well worth the while.

# GERMAN

## *WHY THE STUDY OF GERMAN IS IMPORTANT TO ME*

Donna Talbott
Smith-Cotton High School
Sedalia

In today's modern world, cross country and even continent to continent travel is frequent. Since I come in contact with an assortment of people, it is necessary to have a well-rounded education.

The ability to communicate is the mark of an educated person. I have carried that idea one step further by not limiting myself to communication in only the English language. German, one of the most-widely spoken languages was my choice.

My mother is German and naturally I was interested in learning more about what her life was like - the customs, idealogies, and speech. The study of German has provided me with that, but still, in a greater sense, it has taught me that people all over the world are basically the same.

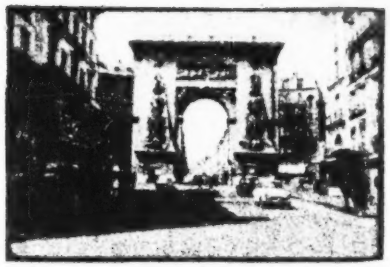
Why should we be separated just because we do not understand their language?

When I graduate from college, I hope to go back to Germany. There, my ability to speak, read, and understand German, however limited it may be, will be of unmeasurable value. If a person in a foreign country can speak at least one other language besides his own, this is a great asset.

Moreover, if I decide to work in Europe, whoever looks over my application would be more inclined to choose someone who spoke more than one language.

Finally, one road to peace is when people are interested in learning about people who are different from themselves. German is my first step on that road, of understanding myself and trying to accept my neighbors, no matter who, what, or where they are, as people.

# FRENCH



## *WHY THE STUDY OF FRENCH IS IMPORTANT TO ME*

Beverley Vale
Hazelwood Senior High

Society affects everything we do. It formulates our ideas and influences our decisions. When a girl is in that silly stage between ages twelve and fourteen she has a love for the romantic. In making that world-shattering decision of what language she chooses to study, there is nothing more logical than the "language of romance" -- French. This was my "naive" reason for first beginning my study of French.

It was only two weeks into my first French class when I discovered that there was nothing romantic about Marie's aunt being ill or Jean's liking chocolate ice cream. There was nothing strange or foreign about Claudette's uncle having a good sense of humor or Noël's watching television. Those funny little syllables of French had meaning and were not just an accent resembling a speech defect. Already I was learning something important.

After my first year of study I found myself intrigued when watching films. The extravagant little man who started rattling in French whenever he became excited was not a character placed into the movie solely for humor. No more did I just sit and laugh at him. It was a challenge to translate his speech and, in doing so, perhaps gain a little insight as to the nature of the character and the play in which he appeared.

Insight into art was not all that this new hobby (for by now it had become a hobby rather than just another book to carry to school) had given me. It had created a deeper understanding of the vast similarities between people. The language of the French people does not convey completely unknown feelings simply because the words are alien to Americans. The emotions and attitudes of the people are the same even if the verbalization sounds different.

Although my chances of living in France or even taking a trip through the country are slight, and although I may never be called upon to translate an urgently needed document written in French or help a Frenchman lost in America; I feel I have gained true understanding of the relationship between all peoples. Differences of dress, race, or language are superficial differences. By realizing this I feel closer to all people, for I have learned that they are basically the same in South Africa as they are in Germany, France, Japan, and America.

## *WHY THE STUDY OF FRENCH IS IMPORTANT TO ME*

Linda Oliveira
Smith-Cotton High School
Sedalia

I feel that the knowledge of French is very important to me, as a means of communication. It will not only benefit me in my future career in the Peace Corps, but also in my normal everyday living here in the United States.

French will help me to attain a larger vocabulary, and to better comprehend the English language because many American words are derived directly from the French.

Thousands of American tourists travel abroad each year, seeking adventure and knowledge of the French traditions and customs. I plan to be one of these people in the near future, and my knowledge of the French language will prove to be beneficial.

Being able to comprehend French will make it easier for me to understand other languages as I travel through different countries.

I first became interested in the French language upon visiting a friend in whose home only French was spoken. Beyond the words of *Bonjour*, I was completely lost as to what was being said. All I noticed, were smooth sounding words, smiles and laughter.

This also happened on occasions when my friend and I lunched at a quaint French restaurant with a significant French-laden menu.

It was then, that I decided to put forth an effort to learn the language. In my study of French, I have learned to read, write, speak, and to comprehend the language when spoken. Even more significant than that, French has helped me to build a larger vocabulary and to have a better comprehension of my own native tongue.

## *WHY THE STUDY OF FRENCH IS IMPORTANT TO ME*

Terry Schneider
Villa Duchesne High School
St. Louis

There I was, standing on unfamiliar soil - map in hand and confusion everywhere else. While a hundred thoughts spun in my head only one stood out. "Why hadn't I brushed up on my French? Why?! I could be wandering for days searching for another American or an English-Frenchman through the impassable vinyards of the Alsace-Lorraine!" The tortuous thought penetrated. Home was growing more and more sweet. "Apple pie", "Mom", and "America - Love it or leave it" bumperstickers could have even produced a smile. Somehow, I struggled through those sensations to concentrate on such minor details as phrasing "where am I and how do I get out?" I drew out a pen and marked an X on my destination and the lost highway so easy to spot on the map. Then, I proceeded to hunt for someone safe to approach, someone, a body, two feet - there was no one around. Another passing thought: does anyone live in South-eastern France? Mounted with visions of eternal desertion I made way to a nearby *boulangerie*. This seemed a righteous solution to two problems, being nearly lunchtime. Once inside, I fumbled into line feeling like a typical tourist and obviously an American. To my surprise, when my turn came (six months later), the right words flowed out and I found myself actually making sense. I had communicated in a foreign language in a foreign country and was understood. It was amazing. I looked back on all those years with appreciation to those teachers who knew the importance of French and could teach it to me.

## *WHY THE STUDY OF FRENCH IS IMPORTANT TO ME*

Marla Tempel
Smith-Cotton High School
Sedalia

I chose to study French because it is a beautiful and melodious language. However, I have found it to hold much more importance than just being pleasant to listen to. I see now that French can be the beginning of many opportunities.

One of the most important things the French language does is to help me communicate with others. This communication can help me make new friends from foreign nations. I can learn about their way of life, their customs, and their country's history.

Traveling also becomes easier. I know enough French that if I happened to get lost in a French-speaking country, I could easily ask directions. I would be able to read signs written in French, and I would feel more at home in the foreign country.

Many times I have gone into a restaurant and found the menu written in French. Then I had to order and just hope for the best. Now I can read a French menu with ease, and I do not have to worry about receiving snails or octopus.

Think of all of the job opportunities which could open up to me if I became fluent in French. I could become a missionary in a French-speaking country. Or I could get a job as a stewardess on an airplane and visit far-off and exotic cities. A diplomatic job would also be exciting and maybe I could even promote peace between nations.

With a vocabulary of French words I would also widen my studies. Many books which were once impossible for me to read are now easily within my grasp.

But the most important reason that I am taking French is that I enjoy it and the enjoyment of any subject is often hard to find in schools today.

# *WHY THE STUDY OF FRENCH IS IMPORTANT TO ME*

Kim Marcum
Central High School
St. Joseph

One of the great importances of French to me is the vast and unlimited cultural experiences one can gain from knowing the language of the French people. To break down barriers and to be able to talk with someone of a totally different background can help introduce people to many things. It can open doors to history, architecture, art, music, and literature. The *Louvre*, the Palace of *Versailles*, and the religious edifices such as *Notre Dame de Paris* and *Chartres* have whetted my appetite for more art. The many ancient Roman ruins in France and the *chateaux* scattered along the *Loire* have awakened my interest in history. Not until French have I been aware of Roman and Gothic architecture. Because of the copies of paintings by famous artists, both classical and impressionistic, which have adorned our classroom walls, my love for art has increased. Fortunately, I have met French authors by way of translated novels which I have read for English book reports.

As the length of time for traveling from the United States to France decreases, our exchanges of ideas will be accomplished more and more frequently, and with greater effects. The ability to speak to a person in his native tongue, for him to realize that I cared enough to study his language for that sole purpose, is as complete a reason as any to justify long hours of studying the French.

Also, to have the knowledge to converse with a people whose country has contributed not only to world heritage, but more relevantly, to American heritage, seems particularly fascinating to me. Even today there are few countries, if any, that can rival France's *haute couture* and its impact on fashion everywhere. Besides possessing a refined culture and an interesting history hundreds of years old, France's political and economical policies are far-reaching in the contemporary world. For these reasons the study of French is important to me.

## *THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING FRENCH*

Sylvia Law
Rolla Senior High

The study of French is important to me for three major reasons. First, I believe that through studying French one increases his English vocabulary. Often with the knowledge of common French words one can derive the meaning or near meaning of unfamiliar English words. For example, *amenable*, which means easily led, was derived from the French word *amener*, meaning to lead near. *Ameliorate*, meaning to improve, was derived from *s'ameliorer*, meaning to improve oneself. *Corrigible*, meaning capable of being corrected is another example. Its French partner is *corriger* meaning to correct. These are but a few examples of French-based English words.

Second, French is important to me because I enjoy traveling. Certainly the ability to communicate with the native peoples enriches a journey and makes it more meaningful. French is especially useful in travel because it is not only spoken in France. French and closely related languages are spoken in Canada, Switzerland, Africa, Belgium and Viet Nam.

French is the dominant language of the Common Market. This is surely proof of its world-wide use and importance. In the Common Market, telephones are answered in French and all documents appear first in French. Press conferences are also spoken in French.

The third and most important reason applies not only to French but to foreign languages in general. This reason is to promote peace and understanding between peoples. It is often said that in order to speak a language well one must "think" in that language. Thus, language is closely intertwined with culture. An understanding of one another through language, must be the first stone laid if a bridge of peace is to be built between nations. These are the three major reasons that studying a language, French in particular, is important to me.

# *THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY OF FRENCH*

Steve Tharp
Glendale High School
Springfield

To study the language and customs of a foreign people is one of the greatest joys of my life. As a student of French, I find myself more able to understand and accept other people, for in these studies I have become aware of the fact that, although people may differ in language and custom, they are also very much alike.

In our modern society, the world has become much smaller. Great distances can be traveled in a few short hours, thanks to that amazing instrument of travel, the jet plane. A friend who lives in some distant place is now only as far away as the nearest telephone. News is relayed to our homes almost instantly by television and radio. Because of these things, the jet, the telephone, the television and the radio, it would stand to reason that we would have a greater understanding of the different countries and people of the world.

Nevertheless, it is apparent that many people, especially we Americans, do not understand people of other nations. We often look down on such people, saying that they are "odd" or "not our kind". In other words, even though our world is a smaller one, one more easily traveled by more people, most of us still have the idea that because someone is from a foreign country, he is "different".

Studying a foreign language such as French helps people get over their fear of people of other lands and can cause us to realize that man cannot be categorized by nationality or custom.

In the study of French, I have discovered that the world of "real people" is not confined to Glendale High School or Springfield, Missouri, or the United States of America. People, as I said before, are all very much alike.

This is why the study of French is important to me. It opens doors of understanding and communication with the rest of the world. The joy of being able to say, "I feel that I know and understand a country and its people", is a joy that should be felt by each of us in order to become truly understanding in modern society.

## *WHY THE STUDY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES IS IMPORTANT TO ME*

Jeanne Jones
Hickman High School
Columbia

Why study a foreign language? One of the best and most effective reasons for learning a language is necessity. When you live in an environment where few, if any, speak your language the advantages of knowing theirs soon become apparent. That is not the situation here in mid-America, where the majority of my neighbors speak English. However, I have had the experience of being in the minority language group. I have seen the limitations that ignorance of the national tongue imposes on the visitor. I have also seen the rewards that come from learning it. When you speak their language you show that you care enough to take the first step - perhaps toward a friendship that otherwise might not have come about.

A language is something that has developed over a long period of time. As a result, it becomes an integral part of the people. It expresses their way of life - their thoughts, feelings and values. When you know the language you are very close to truly knowing the people.

Aside from the practical benefits of knowing a language, the personal satisfaction that it gives me is very important. The idea of learning a new way of speaking - of identifying with a different culture intrigues my imagination. My intellectual curiosity is aroused.

When I was a young child I used to play at inventing secret codes and languages. Perhaps there is a parallel between the pleasure I get from learning Spanish and French and my codes and languages. However, the ends to which I am striving are now different. Whereas the latter were used to hide and keep something in a closed circle, the study of foreign languages will lead to opening up those closed circles and sharing.

# SPANISH

## *WHY THE STUDY OF SPANISH IS IMPORTANT TO ME*

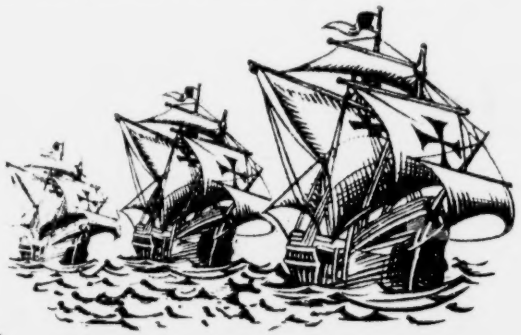
Thomas O'Hanlon
Hazelwood Senior High

The ancient city states of Athens and Sparta were separated by mountains. Lack of communication hindered cooperation and mutual understanding. The two were often at war. Unable to take collective action they were easily conquered by invading armies.

In somewhat like manner our nation is made up of many individual groups. Our larger society is divided into numerous kinds of communities. There are, for example, over ten million residents of the United States today whose language is Spanish and whose culture is of Spanish origin. These Spanish Americans often reside in their own sections, separated from the larger community, not by mountains, but by the same lack of mutual understanding exhibited by the ancient Greeks.

Differences within a society, however, need not be a source of weakness, rather they can be a well of strength to which each segment can contribute toward the common good. The question is: How are we to be pulled together in a sense of common identity and purpose? For complete assimilation, we need to find a way to actually share experiences: to feel each other's problems as if they were our own!

The study of the Spanish language can be an important element in achieving this purpose. Through the medium of Spanish, a student vicariously shares in the sentiments and attitudes, the experience and history of the Spanish American. The study of Spanish literature makes possible an appreciation of the Spaniard's customs and ideals, and breaches attitudes that separate and divide. As in the words of an old Spanish saying: ¡*Saber otra lengua es ver con otros ojos*!



## *WHY TAKING SPANISH IS IMPORTANT TO ME*

Jean Eckerle
Saint Francis Borgia High School
Washington

Too many people these days are cramped up, away someplace in their special world where no one can find them. They think about themselves and nobody else. What do you do about people like this who refuse to let the ideas of others in?

This is one big reason why I think taking Spanish is important. The study of Spanish opens may doors to me. These doors may lead anywhere from a broader outlook on life to a great appreciation for the existence of different language. I think everyone should at least know or have studied one foreign language because it helps one to realize that he or she is not the only one in this world who's ways and ideas matter. No! There are many people besides yourself who matter also.

Through my study of Spanish I've learned the social, economic, and political aspects of the major Spanish speaking countries. Spain isn't just the olé! and the big bullfight as many people think it is. There is much more that the Spanish are noted for.

The Spanish are proud of themselves, their country, and especially their religion. These three are as important to present day Spaniards as the "3G's" were to Spaniards in days past.

Just as the Spanish are proud, I am proud also. Proud to have been given the chance to study Spanish to see how many new doors are being opened in front of me. It is important to me because through Spanish I can communicate with others by discovering myself.

Don't you think it's time you woke up and communicated with others through a foreign language?!

*SPANISH IS A BRIDGE*

Joyce Barrickman
Kirksville Senior High

Studying Spanish is one of the most important things in my life because it is my link with the people of Spain and South America.

In the past few decades transportation has become so advanced, that traveling is a way of life for many people. It is not uncommon for people to spend their vacation in another country. I think one of the saddest sights is an American tourist who can't understand why everyone doesn't speak English. No one can completely understand the beauty and culture of a country unless they can communicate with the people. The people are the country.

With Mexico as our neighbor, the study of Spanish is even more important. Even in our own southwestern states, Spanish speaking people are not uncommon.

In a century as troubled as this one, peace talks are essential. Even with interpreters, dignitaries who do not speak the language may miss the tone and full meaning of what is said.

These are all reasons why any language is important, but to me, Spanish is my pathway to understanding people in Spain and South America. By reading Spanish literature, I have a better insight into how people really feel about government, religion, and war. I know now that people are the same everywhere. We all love, hate, laugh, and cry.

Over all I would say my life is a little richer, a little fuller because of my language study. I know that I have something worthwhile to contribute to the world. It's called language.

## *WHY I CHOSE THE SUBJECT SPANISH*

Deborah Shiverdecker
Fulton Senior High

A lot of people think that French is a beautiful language even if they don't take time to study it. I am completely different in this sense because I love to listen to a Spanish person talk. I love their accents, the way they roll their R's on the tip of their tongues, and the way in which the language is spoken.

I was introduced to Spanish by my aunt, uncle, and cousins. My aunt speaks Spanish and is a Puerto Rican. This is perhaps another reason I took Spanish. I feel that I can better understand them for they hardly ever speak English. When I went to Puerto Rico this encouraged my wish to learn this foreign language.

I have a hope and desire someday to return to Puerto Rico to try and learn how to speak the language fluently. I hope to learn more about the customs of the Spanish people. When I visited Puerto Rico it intrigued me very much. I didn't understand many things such as the holiday, Christmas. I was used to something so much different as far as this holiday custom goes. Everyone was shouting and fireworks were going off in the streets as if it were Independence Day for the United States. I would really like to know about Three Kings' Day. I loved the Spanish food except for the pork. The Spanish rice was delicious if it were fixed a certain way.

I am in my second year of Spanish and while a few people have become bored with the subject I enjoy it very much. I have so much fun in this class that it is impossible to describe.

## *WHY THE STUDY OF SPANISH IS IMPORTANT TO ME*

Debbie Clark
Blue Springs Senior High

Students always ask, "Why take a foreign language?" Although the answer appears simple, it isn't possible for me to give one explanation. The reason is a complex entanglement of ideas that have developed because of my character, background, and beliefs. In an attempt to untangle those reasons, I shall give my answer to the question, "Why is Spanish important to me?"

We show our personalities by our actions, perhaps even more important by the way we express our ideas. Being Americans we know that cool no longer means a temperature slightly less than warm and something really neat isn't everything in its place. We have adopted words to mean more than their original definitions. Why did we associate these words with new meanings? The answer is so deeply rooted in the way we express things that we fail to realize that other people would have done it differently. Each language expresses what people are really like in a way no other medium could. By studying a foreign language it is my desire to understand people. I chose Spanish because those people that spoke that language were the first to show interest in America. What led Isabella of Spain to believe in Columbus when all others wouldn't? Spanish has helped me gain insight into the people who started such a turn of events.

With all the changes coming about it might seem that nothing could become routine, but by the time one gets to high school the English courses are boring. I decided to take Spanish for a change of pace. It is a challenge to apply all those English principles. My Spanish classes have helped give English a new look and now I've the benefit of knowing a foreign language.

Most of us talk without realizing what we're actually doing. To be able to communicate is to transfer your thoughts to the mind of another person. The idea seems simple, but even we've heard of the generation gap. It comes down to lack of communication. Is it possible then for students not only to learn a foreign language, but to be able to express their ideas through it? If I can communicate with someone by using Spanish when otherwise it would have been impossible, then both my mind and their's will have widened. Anything that can help to widen man's views is important.

These reasons may not seem important to everyone, but to me Spanish is the medium to a broader mind.

## *WHY THE STUDY OF SPANISH IS IMPORTANT TO ME*

Louise Maple
Glendale High School
Springfield

Bringing the world into a better knowledge and understanding is why studying Spanish is important to me.

Major conflicts between countries, cities, and even neighbors are present among this entire world today. I believe that we would benefit from studying Spanish or any other foreign language to better understand our fellow man, his needs, and what we can do to help him.

Striving for this knowledge and putting forth the effort that it takes to study a language or learn about the people who speak the language enables one to better understand who he is and what role he plays in society.

I want to know more so as to increase my knowledge of the people who live on this earth, and I hope you do too.

To be a contributing member of society is to perceive what goes on about you. Many Americans today speak Spanish, for instance: Miami, Florida, El Paso, Texas, southern part of California, and many other areas in the United States. All these places contain people who speak, read, and write Spanish and do not know English. It is very hard for one to visualize this as possible, but nevertheless it is true.

I grant that you may not meet with these people or may never know them, but to better understand them you need to know about them. In Spanish you will find this and more, and I can honestly say I really love and enjoy Spanish because of this.

I believe the very need for us to have knowledge of a foreign language is essential to bring the world in a better understanding of the human race.

## *WHY THE STUDY OF SPANISH IS IMPORTANT TO ME*

Douglas Harris
Fulton Senior High

I feel the study of Spanish is important to me because to know how to speak Spanish becomes a more greater challenge to learn the customs, traditions, and the ways of life of the Spanish people. Also the study of Spanish teaches you how closely related English words are to Spanish and how most came from Latin and a few other languages. Since I've only been in Spanish for about a month I'm not a genius of the language, but in that time I've learned to say the things that could help me if I were in a Spanish speaking place, enough that I could get around. Also when you go to Mexico, Spain, or Latin America it would be nice to just wander around and talk to the native people and become more familiar with the way they do things and join in the brilliant festivals they have on many occasions. When I picked Spanish as an elective I thought it would just be a class to goof around in, but since then I've been more interested and have been trying to learn as much as I could, so I could talk to other friends of mine who are in Spanish class with me. And after I can learn enough Spanish I want to try for the Scout merit badge by talking the language a certain amount of time and writing to other scouts who live in Spanish speaking countries. So that's why I think the study of Spanish is important to me.

## *WHY THE STUDY OF SPANISH IS IMPORTANT TO ME*

Kathy Vossbrink
Saint Francis Borgia High School
Washington

I am from a rather small town. It used to be very hard for me to realize how big this world is. I started studying Spanish my freshman year. I have two older sisters who both studied Spanish before me. From listening to them speak Spanish I became interested. When I started studying it was hard to believe that people actually spoke Spanish as the everyday language. I began to realize how big the world is. My friends studied other languages such as French and Latin. I compared the Spanish with my friends' French and then compared both of them with English. Many of the vocabulary words were very similar. Punctuation and sentence structure also had similar characteristics. I found though, that studying verb tenses was the hardest for me. Once I learned the verbs and their endings, I found out that there aren't near as many irregular verbs in the Spanish language. I'm glad that I was brought up to know the English language because I think it would be very hard to learn.

I have recently studied a little about the people of Spain and a little about the people of South America. From this, I have learned about their way of life, such as their entertainment, what they eat, and their beliefs.

In general, I fee that Spanish is important to me, because it enables me to understand and communicate with people of another country. I have come to realize that all men share the same ideals in life.

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